

Voluntary Landowner Incentives Programs

Landowners can conserve land and species while maintaining working lands with the following incentives programs. People can take advantage of more than one program.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service	
Program	Description
Financial Incentives Programs	Technical assistance and financial assistance to implement structural, vegetative, and management practices that promote agricultural production and environmental quality. This assistance includes establishing and improving fish and wildlife habitat.
Easement Programs	Provides matching funds to help purchase development rights to keep productive farm and rangeland in agricultural uses.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	
Program	Description
Safe Harbor Agreement with Assurances	Property owner agrees to make changes to property to help conserve species protected by the Endangered Species Act (ESA). In exchange, USFWS gives assurances that additional or different management activities will not be required without the landowner's consent. Property owner receives an Enhancement of Survival Permit that authorizes an incidental take of species resulting from conservation actions and/or a return to original baseline conditions.
Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances	Participants implement conservation actions to help species that are candidates for Endangered Species Act (ESA) protection so listing may not be necessary.
Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program	Locally-based field biologists work one-on-one with partners to plan, implement, and monitor projects that focus on restoring habitat for migratory birds, anadromous fish and declining plant and animal species. The program provides financial and technical assistance to private landowners, Tribes, and other conservation partners. Partners Program field staff help landowners find other sources of funding and help them through any necessary environmental permitting. Cooperators sign an agreement to retain restoration projects for at least 10 years but otherwise retain full control of their land.

These programs are offered through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Thurston County, and the Center for Natural Lands Management (CNLM).



Please see the other side for Thurston County and CNLM's programs.

Voluntary Landowner Incentives Programs (continued)

Thurston County	
Program	Description
Open Space Tax Program	Property owners with agricultural, open space or timberlands may apply to classify the land as open space. This generally means a reduced assessed value and lower property taxes for the duration of the classification.
Purchase of Development Rights	Compensates land owners for agreeing to conserve their land. The property owner would continue to own, live on and farm the property.
Conservation Banks	Property owners can obtain credits for permanently protecting their land and managing it for rare species. They can sell these credits to developers who need to mitigate for adverse impacts to rare species.

Center for Natural Lands Management	
Program	Description
Property Protection	Protect property in perpetuity for conservation purposes.



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